

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 W
-----310930Z 086250 /22

P R 310757Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7845
CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: NA

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - MARCH 24 - 31

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I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

A. MINDANAO TALKATHON- MUCH OF THE NATION'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS ATTENTION THIS WEEK CENTERED AROUND PRESIDENT MARCOS' 4 1/2 HOUR COUNTRY WIDE "PULONG-PULONG PAMBANSA" (NATIONAL CONFERENCE) DEALING WITH THE MINDANAO SITUATION. THE EVENT WAS CARRIED ON ALL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS. AFTER DELIVERING AN OPENING STATEMENT, THE PRESIDENT ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA AND RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS PHONED IN BY THE CITIZENRY FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. MEDIA REPORTING AND COMMENTARY ON THE EVENT WAS VERY HEAVY, AND, NOT

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SURPRISINGLY, VERY FAVORABLE. INTERESTINGLY, THE QUESTIONS POSED BY THE PUBLIC WERE GENERALLY MORE HARD-HITTING THAN THOSE ASKED BY THE MEDIA. LEST THIS BE VIEWED AS AN AUGURY OF AN EARLY RETURN TO NORMAL CIVIL LIBERTIES, ONE OF PRESIDENT'S AIMS WAS, DOUBTLESS, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HIS CITIZENS ARE VERY NERVOUS ABOUT THE GRANTING OF AUTONOMY IN THE

SOUTH--AS THEY INDEED APPEAR TO BE. MOREOVER, THE PRESIDENT, REPLYING TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MARTIAL LAW WOULD BE ENDED IF THE REBELLION IN THE SOUTH WERE SETTLED, DEMURRED AND NOTED THAT THERE WERE ALSO OTHER REASONS WHY MARTIAL LAW WAS DECREED.

B. "METHINKS THOU DOOTH PROTEST TO MUCH" -- MEANWHILE, AN ATTEMPT -- PERHAPS DIVERSIONARY -- WAS MADE EARLIER IN THE WEEK TO FOCUS ON THE PERENNIAL ISSUE OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AND THE U.S. BASES. THE STORY BEGAN WHEN "IT WAS LEARNED" BY REPORTERS THAT JUSTICE SECRETARY ABAD-SANTOS HAD ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO PROTEST TO THE U.S. EMBASSY OVER THE ISSUANCE OF DUTY CERTIFICATES IN THE CASES OF THREE SERVICEMEN ACCUSED OF VARIOUS OFFENSES AT CLARK AND SUBIC (ALL OLD CASES). SHORTLY THEREAFTER, PORTIONS OF A DIPLOMATIC NOTE APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPERS AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY. THE COMMENTATORS WERE OUTRAGED, WITH TEODORO VALENCIA LEADING THE PACK: "THIS IS NOT EVEN A CASE OF SIMPLE INJUSTICE," VALENCIA FUMED. "THIS IS AN INSULT TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PHILIPPINES." HE LIKENED OUR BEHAVIOR TO THAT OF THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION FORCES DURING WWII. OTHER REACTION TO THE PROTEST NOTE CAME FROM THE TIMES JOURNAL, WHICH EDITORIALIZED ON THE "CODDLING" OF G.I.S AT THE BASES. THE JOURNAL CONCLUDED THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF BASES NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TREATY "TO CORRECT THE STARK INEQUITIES THAT IT HAS SPAWNED."

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ERNESTO GRANADA, ALSO OF THE TIMES JOURNAL, GOT INTO THE ACT AS WELL, POINTING OUT THAT THE LESSON FROM ALL THIS "IS TO DEMAND RESPECT FOR OUR SOVEREIGNTY DURING THE CURRENT BASES NEGOTIATIONS SO THAT PHILIPPINE JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL..." THE WHOLE ISSUE THEN LAY DORMANT FOR SEVERAL DAYS, BUT POSSIBLY WILL BE REVIVED BY OUR RELEASE TODAY TO THE MEDIA OF THE EMBASSY REPLY TO THE PHILIPPINE NOTE. THE REPLY CLARIFIED "CERTAIN INACCURACIES" IN THE DFA NOTE AND WAS COUCHED FOR PRESS CONSUMPTION -- ALTHOUGH AFTER DELIVERY TO DFA. PERHAPS THE POINT WILL NOT BE LOST, IF THE ITEM IS ALLOWED TO APPEAR.

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C. ROMULO TAKES ON PRESS IN OWN LAIR --

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FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO DELIVERED HIMSELF OF SOME ANTI-WESTERN PRESS SENTIMENTS IN A SPEECH TO THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB IN HONG KONG. THE SPEECH GOT RELATIVELY HEAVY LOCAL PLAY. COMMENT ON THE SPEECH INCLUDED A DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL WHICH AGREED WITH THE SECRETARY THAT WESTERN WRITERS SEE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE THIRD WORLD THROUGH "CULTURALLY TINTED GLASSES," AND "PLAY UP BEYOND PROPORTION" THE SIGNIFICANCE OF "SMALL BACKWATER INCIDENTS." THE EDIT CONGRATULATED ROMULO ON HIS EFFORT BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE WESTERN PRESS "HAS ALWAYS THE LAST WORD."

D. COVERAGE OF NURSES TRIAL WISTFUL BUT OBJECTIVE - PRESS TREATMENT OF THE NURSES' TRIAL IN DETROIT WAS FACTUAL AND UNEMOTIONAL DURING THE WEEK. ONLY EDIT WAS BULLETIN TODAY'S, WHICH NOTED THE DEFENSE CLAIM THAT THE PROSECUTION CASE WAS BASED ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AND CONCLUDED THAT SINCE "IT IS A CENTRAL MAXIM IN AMERICAN JUSTICE THAT GUILT MUST BE ESTABLISHED BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT..." THE PROSECUTION MAY HAVE "ENORMOUS DIFFICULTY" GETTING A CONVICTION.

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I. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES:

A. TAGAYTAY SEMINARS RATED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL--
THIS YEAR, THE POST'S ANNUAL TAGAYTAY SEMINAR FOR
STUDENT LEADERS WAS HELD IN TWO PARTS -- THE FIRST
TWO DAYS FOR MIDDLE-LEVEL LEADERS (INCLUDING YOUNG
GOVERNOR OF ANTIQUE PROVINCE) AND FORMER TAGAYTAY
ALUMNI (40) AND THE FINAL FIVE DAYS FOR A NEW GROUP OF
STUDENT LEADERS (48). ALSO UNLIKE PRIOR YEARS, ALL
CANDIDATES WERE INTERVIEWED AND SCREENED TO SELECT
THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE. THE
THEME FOR BOTH SESSIONS WAS "SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND
SOCIAL CHANGE", ALTHOUGH THE FIRST SEMINAR WAS
HANDLED ON A MORE SOPHISTICATED LEVEL. SPEAKERS
DEALT WITH CHANGES BEING WROUGHT IN FAMILY, GOVERN-
MENT, BUSINESS, EDUCATION, MEDIA, RELIGION AND LAW
BOTH IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE U.S. IN RESPONSE TO
NEW PRESSURES AND CONDITIONS. AMSPEC GERALD HYMAN, WHO
KEYNOTED SEMINARS AND MODERATED REMAINDER OF SESSIONS,
PROVED EXCELLENT CHOICE BOTH ON-AND OFF-PLATFORM.
LIVELY DISCUSSIONS OF ALL TOPICS ENSUED, WITH PARTI-
CIPANTS DEBATING BOTH SIDES OF FREEDOM OF PRESS,
LAND REFORM, ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL
ISSUES. THIS YEAR'S BOOK FOR FIRST TIME WILL CONTAIN
PARTICIPANT PAPERS ON SEMINAR TOPICS, RATHER THAN
LECTURER'S TEXTS, THUS FOCUSING ON STUDENT PARTICIPA-
TION AND, HOPEFULLY, INCREASING STUDENT IDENTIFICATION
AND TOPICAL RELEVANCE.

PARTICIPANTS WERE ALMOST UNIFORMLY ENTHUSIASTIC, AND
MANY CONTINUE TO "DROP IN" AT TJCC AND USIS TO DISCUSS
SEMINAR TOPICS.

B. MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST-JACK SHEA--TOKYO-
BASED AMERICAN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT JACK SHEA,
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VOLSPKR FOR THE POST'S "INNOVATIONS IN MANAGEMENT"
PROJECT, VISITED THE PHILIPPINE MARCH 23-30 FOR
PROGRAMS IN DAVAO AND MANILA. ON MARCH 24 HE SPOKE
TO A ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON AUDIENCE AND LATER TO A
SMALL GROUP OF UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT
USIS CENTER IN DAVAO. ON MARCH 25, HE TALKED
AT THE JEFFERSON CENTER, MANILA BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF
APPROXIMATELY 100 MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS (FROM
ACADEMIC, GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND PRIVATE BUSINESS
SECTORS) IN TJCC'S MONTHLY "INNOVATIONS IN MANAGEMENT"
SEMINAR. ON MARCH 27 AND 28, HE SPENT TWO FULL DAYS
AT THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH
FACULTY AND SPEAKING BEFORE BOTH ONE-YEAR MASTERS IN
MANAGEMENT AND TWO-YEAR MASTERS IN BUSINESS MANAGE-

MENT STUDENTS. BASIC TOPIC FOR MOST PRESENTATIONS
WAS "ADAPTATION OF AMERICAN MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES
EGN CROSS-CULTURAL SITUATION." SHEA IS A PRACTICED
AND VERY EFFECTIVE SPEAKER, AND AUDIENCE RESPONSE TO
HIS PRESENTATIONS WAS UNIFORMLY EXCELLENT. HIS
TOPIC IS HIGHLY RELEVANT TO THE UNDERLYING PURPOSE OF
THIS ONGOING PROGRAM, AND POST WAS MORE THAN SATISFIED
WITH HIS CONTRIBUTION.

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Message Attributes

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